

Message Text

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53

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 251102Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5054

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T LONDON 12385

EXDIS

KUWAIT ALSO FOR MUSCAT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, IR, MU

SUBJECT: SHAH'S VIEWS ON IRANIAN ROLE IN OMAN

REF: STATE 196614; TEHRAN 7057

1. ROLE OF IRANIANS IN OMAN WAS MENTIONED IN PASSING
DURING COLONEL MALONEY'S BRIEFING OF BRITISH FCO
OFFICIALS OCTOBER 12. (MOST OF DISCUSSION SUMMARIZED
SEPARATELY BY MEMCON.) MALONEY SAID HE FOUND IRANIAN
COLONEL IN COMMAND QUITE KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT LOCAL
SITUATION AND MYRIAD OF OPERATIONAL DIFFICULTIES IT
PRESENTS TO BRITISH WHO ARE PRINCIPAL COORDINATORS AND
ADVISERS. MALONEY OPINED THAT COLONEL MUST BE KEEPING
IRANIAN GOVERNMENT PRETTY WELL APPRISED OF SITUATION.

2. IRANIAN CONTINGENT IS CERTAINLY WELL EQUIPPED (EVEN
PERHAPS A BIT TOO MUCH SO IN VIEW SPARE EQUIPMENT OF
OTHER TROOPS IN OMAN) AND COLONEL TOLD MALONEY THAT ON
PERSONAL ORDERS OF SHAH HE GETS ANYTHING HE ASKS FOR IN
SUPPORT FROM HOME.

3. NEVERTHELESS, IRANIAN COLONEL ALSO TOLD MALONEY
THAT SHAH HAD INSTRUCTED HIM TO FOLLOW ORDERS AND NOT
SECRET

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EXPRESS PERSONAL OPINIONS ON THE WAR. THE WAR IS AND
SHOULD BE TREATED AS A BRITISH SHOW. WHILE COLONEL KEEPS
CAREFUL REIN ON HIS SOMETIMES ENTHUSIASTIC TROOPS NOT TO
TAKE UNNECESSARY RISKS, HE OBEYS ORDERS OF HIGHER COMMAND

IMPLICITLY.

4. COMMENT: QUESTION OF EXTENT AND LEVEL TO WHICH IRANIAN COLONEL REPORTS HIS UNDERSTANDING OF DIFFICULTIES FACING BRITISH IN THIS WAR COULD NOT BE INVESTIGATED AUTHORITATIVELY BY MALONEY ON THE SPOT. WE WONDER IF COLONEL AND SUBORDINATE OFFICERS ARE SO IMPRESSED BY OPERATIONAL DIFFICULTIES (AND POLITICAL RESTRAINTS ON RISK-TAKING IMPOSED BY BRITISH) THAT THEY ACCENTUATE THE NEGATIVE IN THEIR REPORTS BACK HOME (PER TEHRAN 7057). ALTERNATIVELY, WE WONDER IF COLONEL HAS INDEED BEEN ALLOWED TO REPORT AS FULLY AS MAY BE DESIRABLE AT HIGH ENOUGH LEVEL IN IRANIAN GOVERNMENT, PARTICULARLY IF HE WERE TYPE WHO COULD BALANCE DIFFICULTIES AGAINST ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN REALISTIC FASHION. ADDRESSEES WILL BE BEST JUDGES OF THAT.

ANNENBERG

SECRET

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 11 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, POLITICAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973LONDON12385
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: P750018-0379
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731065/abqcefum.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: STATE 196614; TEHRAN 7057
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26-Jul-2001 by thigpegh>; APPROVED <10-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SHAH'S VIEWS ON IRANIAN ROLE IN OMAN
TAGS: PINS, PFOR, IR, MU
To: STATE INFO JIDDA
KUWAIT
TEHRAN
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005